

Friends Bulletin

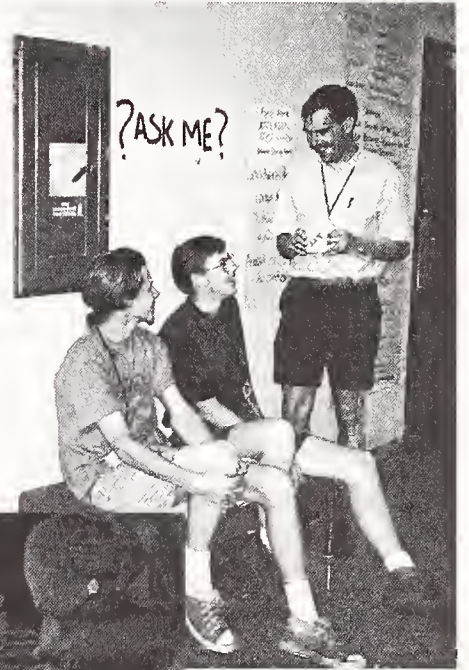
PACIFIC, NORTH PACIFIC, AND INTERMOUNTAIN YEARLY MEETINGS
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Volume 63, Number 1

September 1994



INTERMOUNTAIN



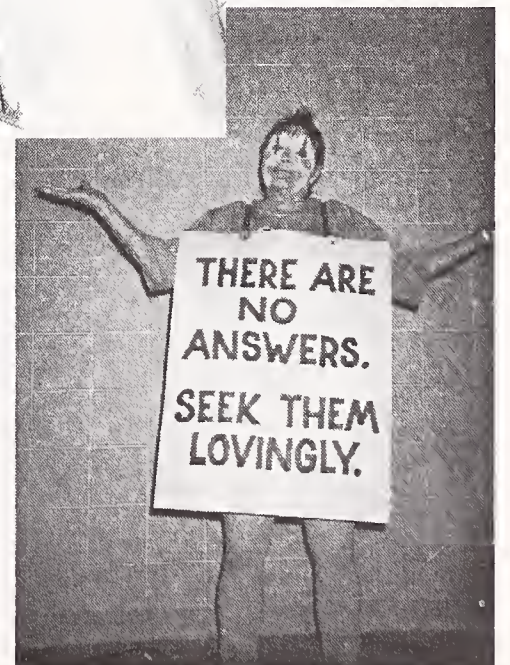
NORTH
PACIFIC



PACIFIC



YEARLY
MEETING



EDITORIAL

People frequently ask me how our three yearly meetings are different from, or the same as, one another and I never have a good answer. We're like family; if one would feel at home in one yearly meeting, one would feel at home in the other two. It's sort of like going to a cousin's house.

I often fear many of you will see this as a "boring" issue, full of epistles and minutes. If so, look again. This issue is full of fascinating material. Look at the selected minutes from the yearly meetings to get some idea how they spent their time. It's all great stuff and none better or worse than the other.

I wish we could have more interchange between the three yearly meetings and have been glad to see that in the last two years there has been a lot of activity with Friends from the three yearly meetings visiting each other. Most of us visit for a specific reason; usually we have a message we wish to bring to other Friends (AFSC, FCNL, *Friends Bulletin*, Moscow Center, etc.).

I wish there were some way we could have more inter-visitation, just for the sake of keeping up a relationship with each other. I'd particularly like to see high school and young adult Friends freely exchanging, but realize they're at an age where finding the time and money to go to their own yearly meeting is often more than they can do.

Then, of course, if we sent "official" representatives to one another there'd be the questions of possible presentations and reports, written and otherwise. It all gets complicated.

Visiting another yearly meeting is just plain fun. I do recommend it.

Nancy Yarnall

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The above list is an attempt to make it easier for all Friends to contact those Friends who are in high school or somewhat older (Young Friends).

CALENDAR

September 1994

- 23-25 Colorado Regional Meeting, Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, CO.
- 23-25 Southern California Quarterly Meeting Campout Retreat at the Beach.
- 30-10/2 Basic Buddhism for Friends with John Travis, Quaker Center, Ben Lomond, CA.

October 1994

- 7-10 Bible Passages: Personal Journeys and Travels Together with Eric Moon, Patricia Reilly, and Michael Mansfield, Quaker Center, Ben Lomond, CA.
- 8-9 Willamette Quarterly Meeting, Sky Camp, near Eugene, OR.
- 14-16 Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting, Lazy F Ranch, Ellensburg, WA.
- 15-16 College Park Quarterly Meeting, John Woolman School, Nevada City, CA.

November 1994

- 11-13 Wyoming Friends, November Gathering, Lander, WY.
- 13-18 Healing from Life's Wounds with John Calvi, Quaker Center, Ben Lomond, CA.
- 18-20 Rhythmical Alchemy Playshop with Arthur Hull, Quaker Center, Ben Lomond, CA.

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Cover Photographs:

Center: Tom Schroeder (Logan), Jan Miller (Salt Lake City),
and Bill Durland (Lamb's Community). Staff photo.
Top Left: Anthony Manousos (Claremont). Staff photo.
Top Right: Jay Johansen, Sean Olufsen, and Jay Thatcher
(Corvallis). Photo by Jackie Van Dyke (Corvallis).
Bottom Left: Helen Park (Eugene). Staff photo.
Bottom Right: Marybeth Webster (Grass Valley).
Staff photo.

Corrections

In the May 1994 issue, Joyce Henning, Cedar Rapids,
Iowa, reported on the Religion and Psychology Confer-
ence held at Ben Lomond Quaker Center in February.
In the July 1994 issue, Richard Holt, Claremont Meet-
ing, reported on the 1994 Southern California Conference
on Religion and Psychology.



John and Nina Sullivan. Photo by Lynn Waddington.

Intermountain Yearly Meeting

June 15-19, 1994

Durango, Colorado

Epistle

Greetings Friends,

For twenty years Friends scattered throughout the Southwestern United States have gathered to reconnect and support one another under the care of the Intermountain Yearly Meeting.

In years past we have grappled with issues which have tested our endurance and our commitment and which left us at once energized and exhausted from the struggle to overcome personal agendas and rightly honor that of God in each of us.

This year, challenged to explore the theme of "Living the Community of Faith," we have approached our time together in a spirit of acceptance and healing. Striving to understand "community" in all its forms, we have sought spiritual connection to the Light as individuals and as a corporate body, recognizing our hunger for guidance from the "still, small voice." We have looked at communities ranging from personal to local to global in all their intimacy and vulnerability. We have heretofore trusted one another to come together in meaningful spiritual connection, but this year we have approached one another with a new tenderness born of reconciliation and the grace of God.

We welcomed our guest speaker, Dorlan Bales, a Friend from the pastoral tradition and one of the founders of the Friends of Jesus Community in Wichita, Kansas. He stated that reconciliation is the key to community. To be successful we must be "knit to each other and knit to the Lord." He invited us to reconcile our faith through action as exemplified by the radical Jesus. As we anticipate the upcoming Triennial in neighboring New Mexico, hear about current AFSC concerns, and learn more about the Peace Team Project, our sense of community takes on world-wide proportions.

We have challenged ourselves to articulate the core of our beliefs in undertaking the crafting of our own Faith and Practice. We are humbly drawn to this adventure, while some of us fear that the printed words of Faith and Practice will hinder continuing revelation. Ours is a community of wide-ranging individuals, and we cherish the diversity of our spiritual foundations, even as we grieve the absence of some familiar faces in this year of our reconciliation.

Through it all the children have remained motivated and have inspired us with fun, including time for Messy Games for all ages. Senior Young Friends report an increasing attention to matters of the Light. They also have considered the development of a new, older group of Young Friends that would at once facilitate the transition of Senior Young Friends to adult Friends and would address the increasing problem of mid-twenties dropout. We are enriched by them all.

May we all hear the call when it comes and heed it with vigor. May we choose to make a difference. May we never forget to nurture one another, even as we are ourselves nurtured by that of God in our hearts.

Yours in the Community of Faith,
Bill and Genie Durland, Co-clerks



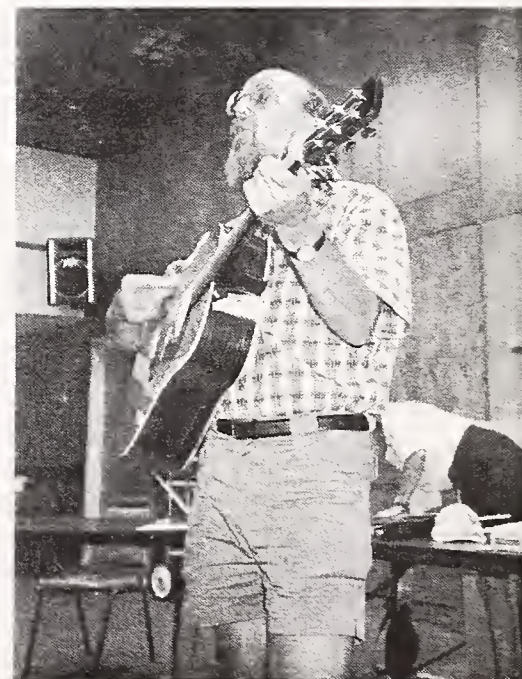
Nadean Mills, Durango,
Operations Committee.
Staff Photo.

Friends

by Lindsey North, Salt Lake City Meeting

Friends are like stars shining
out to meet you. You are the moon.
You are bigger than them. They
still respect you and you respect them.
You give them light; they give you
friendship. You accept them even
though they're terribly small.
That is a friendship that will bond
forever. You are the moon and the stars
are your friends.

Lindsay who is ten years old and in the fifth grade wrote the above poem for the IMYM Annual Session Creativity Night.



Eric Wright, Mountain View,
leading singing.
Staff photo.

Selected Minutes

Continuing Committee

Ross Worley, Registrar, reported that 288 people pre-registered ... with more expected to late register.

Continuing Committee discussed the need for an overall IMYM directory of officers, committee members, terms of appointments, etc. ... There is a real problem in that many meetings do not know the terms of the people they appoint and do not know when the terms expire. In addition, many meetings do not regularly report changes in their appointments to IMYM.

Friends Committee on Unity with Nature [wrote] asking IMYM to appoint a representative to FCUN. ... IMYM has responded to the request for formal affiliation with FCUN in the past and has not chosen to appoint an IMYM representative to this organization. Individual meetings of IMYM do belong. Continuing Committee recognizes the exploration by Utah Friends Fellowship in regard to a meeting with FCUN in 1995 and views this positively.

20th Year of IMYM

The 1994 annual gathering represented IMYM's 20th year. ... Intermountain Yearly Meeting was described as an "extended family," bringing together Friends from more isolated settings in the intermountain western states. ... Friends rose from the first plenary session to celebrate with a birthday cake.

Ministry and Counsel Committee

A Ministry and Counsel Committee was approved by IMYM on a one-year trial basis. Members of the committee have been appointed by the regional meetings. The Ministry and Counsel Committee was presented to Friends as a trial effort to provide a place where serious spiritual concerns can be brought during the course of IMYM's annual gathering. ... Friends approved including all three representatives appointed by Senior Young Friends to the Ministry and Counsel Committee.

Brinton Visitor Program

Friends approved the following minute:

IMYM does not wish to lay down the Brinton Visitor Program. IMYM shall continue to appoint one person to the Brinton Visitor Committee and that person is charged by the yearly meeting with responsibility to make arrangements on behalf of the Committee with regional meetings of IMYM regarding the program of visitation.

Friends Bulletin

Friends approved nominating two representatives from IMYM to the Board of Directors of the new Friends Bulletin Corporation, with \$500 approved to support their travel. Randy Herrick-Stare will serve as one representative.

Friends Peace Team Project

IMYM Friends endorsed the establishment of a Friends Peace Team Project and directed the Finance Committee

of IMYM to [find] travel funds to support the Friends Peace Team Project in 1995. Eric Wright was appointed to be IMYM's representative to the Coordinating Council of the Friends Peace Team Project.

Right Sharing of World Resources

IMYM considered and adopted the following minute to be forwarded to the gathering of Friends at the FWCC 18th Triennial Conference in Abiquiu, New Mexico:

The Friends Testimony on Right (just/fair) Sharing of the World Resources grows from our fundamental belief that there is that of God in every person. Because we are part of the vast web of life and members of the community of the Earth, our careful stewardship of resources is required. We acknowledge the need for each of us individually and as a group to develop an awareness of the underlying assumptions and institutions of our economic system which fosters injustice, and to move from that awareness. As Friends, we seek the opportunity to share with others the gifts God intended for all peoples; to participate constructively and without greed in the economic life of the community; to make our lives a testimony of fair dealing and the promotion of social justice; to live simply that others may have the wherewithal to live; and to conserve the world's resources on the one hand and share them fairly among all peoples on the other hand.

Population Growth

Friends commend to the monthly meetings within Intermountain Yearly Meeting the following minute, adopted by Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and urge monthly meetings to give it prayerful attention:

We recognize rapid population to be an important human and environmental problem. While causes and solutions are complex, we endorse the concept of family planning, education, and services widely available. We feel a special concern for the status of women. We acknowledge disunity of Friends on abortion. We are united in opposing coercion in family planning programs. We urge meetings to study further the problem of rapid population growth and to discern how we are to act on this concern as individuals and as meetings.



Vickie Aldrich, Las Cruces, and young people.
Staff photo.

Faith and Practice

After discussion of the development of a *Faith and Practice*, Friends approved a minute regarding this process:

...The process of the Faith and Practice Committee will be Spirit-led rather than time-determined. One aspect will be to encourage involvement and participation among Friends in all our meetings.

The Faith and Practice Committee and all Friends within the IMYM community will seek to learn the purpose and function of Faith and Practice from all our meetings. The Committee and all Friends will be open to new insights and to the wise counsel of Quakers who have come before us. We pray to be careful in our undertaking and tender toward all who wish to contribute. ...

Finance Committee

As of December 1993, the operating balance of IMYM had dropped to approximately \$500. Friends recognize the advisability of building the operating balance to approximately \$4000, which is nominally one-third of the annual operating budget of IMYM. To accomplish this result:

(1) An operating surplus of approximately \$500 is budgeted for 1995. (2) IMYM officers and representatives are requested to be mindful of a need for spending restraint. (3) Unrestricted contributions by Friends to the IMYM General Fund are encouraged. (4) Monthly Meetings are requested to remit assessments [early].

To assure that scholarship resources are available and utilized to assist those Friends who might experience financial difficulty... [in attending IMYM]. Friends approved:

Monthly Meetings are encouraged to assess their needs for scholarship assistance and submit budget requests at Continuing Committee in February. ...

Monthly Meetings are urged to encourage people ... to avail themselves of the scholarship resource. ... [They should be assured] that they are personally valued at Intermountain Yearly Meeting and that financial concerns should not deprive the yearly meeting of their presence and participation.

Registrar

Intermountain Yearly Meeting will meet at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado, June 14-18, 1995. ■

IMYM
Doll
Project,
1994.
Staff photo.



Living the Community of Faith by Gail Hoffman, Mountain View Meeting

Dorlan Bales in his keynote address to the 1994 Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM) challenged Friends to live their faith in communities responsive to society's needs. Speaking on the theme, "Living the Community of Faith," Bales described to attenders at the 20th anniversary of IMYM how he and his wife, Donna, joined with others to live and work in their Friends of Jesus Community in a poor, black neighborhood of Wichita, Kansas. For the Bales, living the community of faith meant abandoning middle-class comforts for the greater joys of working within a faith community to respond to needs in their new neighborhood.

Among the approximate 325 attenders at IMYM June 15-19 in Durango, Colorado, living the community of faith means many other things as well.

The Religious Society of Friends "community of faith" has many organizations engaged in projects all over the world and in the United States. Besides hearing reports from the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), IMYM attenders supported a proposal from Elise Boulding of Boulder, Colorado, to establish the Friends Peace Team Project. IMYM deferred action on another proposal, the establishment of the Friends Center Moscow, until 1995, after the FWCC Triennial acts on the idea. Several attenders at IMYM, such as Ted Church of Albuquerque, NM, helped make local arrangements for the FWCC Triennial, which met at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico in August.

Another indication of Friends international community of faith is the financial support Albuquerque Monthly Meeting is giving to two projects sponsored by Cape Western Monthly Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. One project assists the destitute and the other tries to resolve violent situations peacefully. Ted Church said the two projects are likely to face more challenges as South Africa attempts a peaceful transition to democracy.

Other international interests represented at IMYM included a discussion group led by Jack Powelson of Boulder, Colorado, about the division between rich and poor nations. Powelson's talk was based on his long career in international development. At IMYM, Powelson proofread a manuscript for his book, due for publication later this year, which is on the same subject.

Concerning work within the United States, the AFSC-IMYM Joint Service Project is undergoing an evaluation that may result in some projects lasting less than a week and being located closer to the homes of participants, said Francie Marbury of Denver. The project seeks to provide opportunities for Friends of all ages to take part in AFSC service projects. Bruce Thron-Weber, also of Denver, gave

an introduction to the Alternatives to Violence Project, which provides prison and jail inmates with techniques and tools for resolving conflicts nonviolently. Tom Carr of Tempe, Arizona, facilitated another group on the web of life that exists between water and community in the arid West.

Quaker process also was a topic for several discussion groups. Dorothy Aldrich of Denver led an interest group on "Are Quakers Still Christ-Centered?" Penny Thron-Weber of Denver led one on confidentiality within Friends Meetings, and Marshall Massey, also of Denver, facilitated another on the discernment of the "still, small voice" that has prompted many Quakers to take their ministries out into the world. Lesbians and gays within Friends communities and Quaker sexual ethics were among other topics explored in small discussion groups.

As part of knitting Friends together in IMYM's area, steps have been taken to begin developing an IMYM *Faith and Practice*. A group of interested representatives from the monthly meetings decided in January that the group will choose a topic and refer materials on that topic to each monthly meeting. No completion date has been set for the new *Faith and Practice*, said LaDonna Wallen of Tempe, who clerked the Faith and Practice group until Ted Church was able to assume the clerkship.

The Long-Range Planning Concern Group at IMYM considered another way of bringing Friends in the Intermountain area closer together through establishment of a Quaker retreat and conference center.

Community within IMYM was expressed also outside of worship-sharing, business meetings, and interest and concern groups, through events, such as folk dancing, folk singing, a creativity night, and intergenerational activities — hikes in the mountains, paddle boating, and a visit to the Anasazi Museum in Durango. ■



Tom Carr, Tempe, told stories to the grade school children each morning at IMYM.
Staff photo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Call to Peacemaking

A regional New Call to Peacemaking Conference, a program of the Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and Quakers will be held in Arizona October 27-29, 1994, at Tempe Friends Meeting, Tempe, Arizona, with the theme, "Managing Inter-Personal and Group Conflict."

Costs: \$75 for three days, \$65 for two, and \$50 for one day (if registration is received by October 1, 1994). For information, contact Ann Hardt, 914 E Laguna Dr, Tempe, AZ 85282, or call (602) 839-8399.

San Francisco Meeting

San Francisco Friends Meeting is moving! We have sold our property on Lake Street and have bought the Unity Temple building downtown, a half-block from Market Street and easily reached by public transportation. After August 1, 1994, we will be meeting in our new home for worship and First-Day School at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Address: 65 Ninth St, San Francisco, CA (415) 431-7440.

Friends Housing

Friends Housing, Inc. is undertaking two projects. First, we want to develop retirement housing that encourages and fosters *community* among its residents. Second, we actively seek to organize a group of inspired Quakers to be members of our corporation. Membership dues are \$10 per year per family. Send checks payable to Friends Housing, Inc, P.O. Box 4765, Seattle, WA 98104.

FWCC - Section of the Americas

The Annual Session of FWCC, Section of the Americas, will meet at the Red Lion Inn in downtown Portland, Oregon, USA, on March 16-19, 1995. Multnomah Monthly Meeting and Reedwood Friends Church are the host meetings and individuals from the two meetings form the Local Planning Committee.

Veterans Peace and Reconciliation Park

Construction on a Veterans Peace and Reconciliation Park will begin in the Fall of 1994. For tax-exempt contributions, make checks out to Madison Monthly Meeting, noting either Veterans or Peace Park. Mail to Religious Society of Friends, 1704 Roberts Ct, Madison, WI 53711. For information, call (608) 767-3399.

Intermountain Friendly Review

At Intermountain Yearly Meeting in 1990 and 1991, Dimitri Mihalas and Barbara Mihalas lead discussion groups on depression and manic-depression. Because of the importance of this topic to Friends in Intermountain Yearly Meeting, Intermountain Friendly Review for 1993-94 is devoted to a condensation of the material presented in 1990-1, with subsequent revision. Individuals or Friends meetings wishing copies of this issue of Intermountain Friendly Review may address their orders to: 11795 CR 39.2, Mancos, CO 81328. Price: \$3.50 postpaid. ■

North Pacific Yearly Meeting

July 14-17, 1994

Corvallis, Oregon

Epistle

Loving Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

North Pacific Yearly Meeting gathered for our 22nd annual session held at Corvallis, Oregon, July 14-17, 1994. During these four days we created a colorful mural of hands that attested to the presence of 304 adults, 60 Junior Friends, and 71 children. It also reminded us that "there are no hands but ours to do God's work."

The theme of our gathering was taken from Micah 6:8 — "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God: turning faith into action." Our Friend in Residence, Mary Garman, challenged us to know, understand, and reclaim the concept of righteousness. Through poetry and heroic stories she demonstrated that righteousness, justice, and peace are part of Creation. She cautioned us to differentiate between righteousness and self-righteousness, noting that it is frequently the marginalized and afflicted who call us back into right relationship with others and with the Divine.

After two years of prayerful consideration and seasoning, the Mulling-over Committee brought forward proposals for changes in our yearly meeting structure allowing our Steering Committee to focus on the spiritual well-being of our meetings. We hope that the modification will allow more effective nurturing and communication among our widely scattered forty meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups, as well as isolated Friends in five states.

Concern for our young people continues to be expressed in the State of Society reports and in plenary sessions. Our inter-generation worship-sharing continued this year. Junior Friends have representatives on the Mulling-over Committee and Steering Committee, but we must remain mindful that inclusion of Junior Friends is an on-going process.

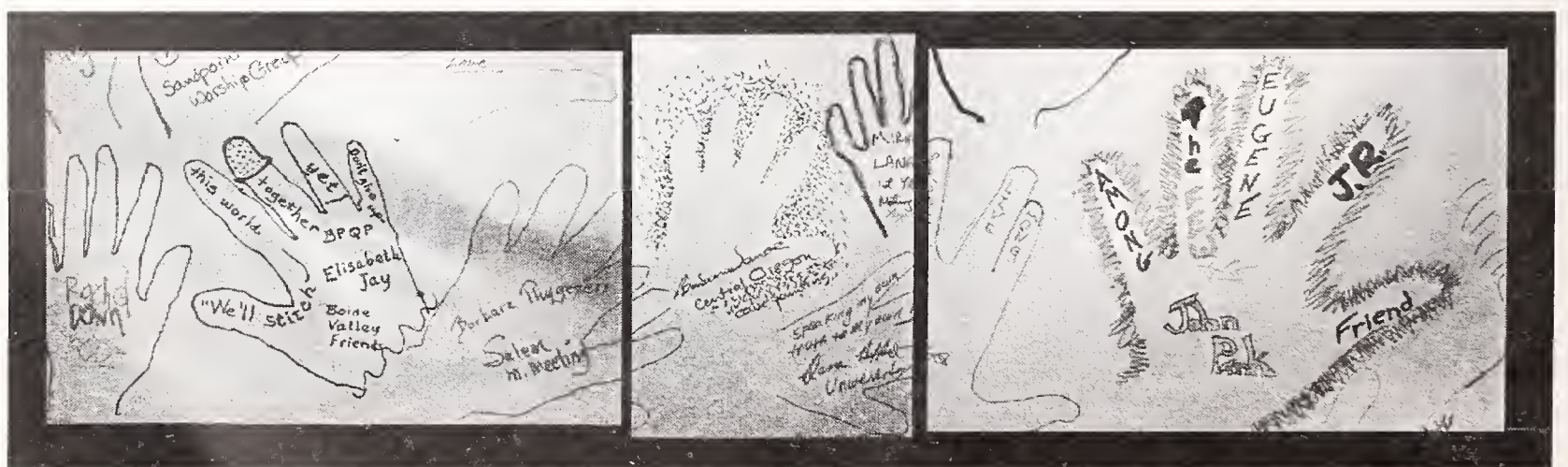
Prior to annual session, Donna Sweeney, Quaker educator, gave a workshop on Quaker religious education for children. She encouraged us to meet children where they are, using stories, games, and exercises to help children discover their own inner wisdom. Throughout the gathering she provided skillful leadership with the various age groups. Her work touched our hunger for a deeper ability to nourish our children's spiritual lives.

This year's presentation by a Quaker organization was led by the AFSC regional executive director, Judith Kolokoff, and a panel from the Gay and Lesbian Youth Program. Participating young people brought a human face and experience to the debate on gay rights. They introduced the work of Lambert House, a place of safety, fellowship, and support for gay youth.

We approved minutes on three concerns: support for the US Peace Tax Fund Bill, which would provide a legal alternative to paying for war with our taxes; backing for the Code of Conduct for Arms Transfers Act as a first step in halting the international arms trade; and a minute challenging us to find a "Loving Response to Hostility toward Homosexual People." Seeing on-going campaigns to establish legal discrimination based on sexual orientation, accompanied by escalating violence against sexual minorities, we acknowledge a tendency in ourselves to "match this energy" by reacting negatively; but we assert that all violence separates us from ourselves, from God, and from each other. As Friends, we seek a response that arises from the Light within and cares for the human dignity of all people affected by conflict.

We have sensed a growing spirit of willingness to work toward unity. Our annual session has challenged us with new possibilities for turning our faith into action. Our charge is to be faithful, even if we are not successful by worldly standards.

In the Light, Marge Abbott, Clerk





Young Friends at NPYM.

NPYM Young Friends Epistle

To Friends Everywhere:

During the past several years we have felt a growing need for a Young Adult Friends group — a program that could bridge the gap between the Junior Friends Program and the Adult Program and produce a place to deepen our understanding among our peers.

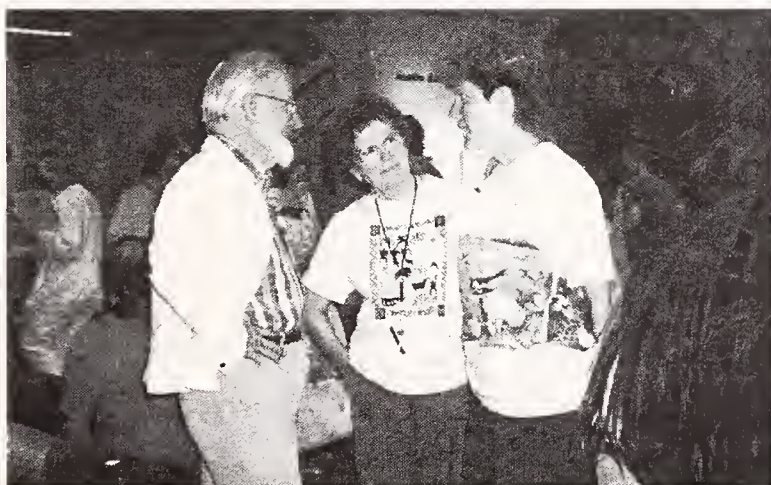
This year the need grew into action when planning began on Friday, coalescing in over 20 young people going out for coffee Friday night to plan out course of action. Saturday afternoon we held our first business meeting. We formed two core planning committees and elected a temporary clerk, recording clerk, and treasurer. We planned our first weekend gathering for fellowship and further organization. It will be held (tentatively) at the Clark Family cabin outside Walla Walla, Washington, on August 13th and 14th, 1994.

We were joined by the Young Friends of North America caravan and received their traveling minute. They offered us their support and guidance, inspiring us with their success and very existence.

Saturday evening we held our first worship-sharing, later joining with the Junior Friends to dance and celebrate our enduring friendships.

We are still focusing our abundant enthusiasm to generate our vision of ourselves and our future. "We're psyched!"
Peace and Light

Darcia McDaniel, Acting Clerk, NPYM Young Friends



Henry Van Dyke, Corvallis; Barbara Thygesen, Salem; and Kristi Thygesen McMorran.

Selected Minutes

Plenary Session I

94-1-1 Marge Abbott, Presiding Clerk, welcomed Friends to the Annual Session by focusing on this year's theme, "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God, turning faith into action." She remembered that John Woolman was often discouraged, and even though he described himself as "... a man walking through a miry place.." he never asked God for success, only for support, guidance, and a leading.

Plenary Session II

94-3-4 The Clerk introduced Mary Garman, Friend in Residence by recalling our theme, "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God, turning faith into action." Mary Van Vleck Garman, a recorded minister and pastor in Indiana, is now assistant professor at Earlham College.

Mary Garman spoke out of the silence. Our theme's active verbs, "doing, loving, and walking" suggest to her God's call to us to join a constellation of activism around justice, love, mercy, and humility. At the constellation's center is "righteousness," a term Friends must reclaim from its connotations of rigidity and judgment. Righteousness is not the same as niceness, not the same as good manners.

Finally she urged Friends to distinguish between righteousness and self-righteousness. When we find ourselves saying, "Thank you, Lord, that I am not like others," we are crossing the boundary into self-righteousness.

Plenary Session IV

94-4-5 The Clerk introduced the discussion of the Report of the Mulling Committee. The Clerk asked that Friends consider each of the four proposals in turn.

- Proposal One amends our Faith and Practice by adding to the Yearly Meeting's statement of purpose the intention that it should primarily support and encourage monthly meetings, worship groups, and individual Friends. Friends approved Proposal One.

- Proposal Two creates a new Annual Session Planning Committee to relieve Steering Committee of the burden of overseeing the details of the annual session and to deepen fellowship and the sense of the Spirit there. A searching discussion identified several areas which needed additional clarification. ... The Clerk sensed general approval of Proposal Two and suggested that she take these clarifications and related questions to Steering Committee which will work as needed with Mulling Committee and with Junior Friends to develop the final structure. Friends approved this course of action.

- Friends moved to consideration of Proposal Four which creates and funds a part-time, paid position called Secretary to the Yearly Meeting. Friends approved.

- Proposal Three changes a number of structures and functions of the Steering Committee. A Friend proposed adding a Yearly Meeting standing Ministry and Oversight

Committee to the changes. After some discussion, the Clerk recognized that Friends had not reached unity to do this at this time. Mindful of continued concern to review and articulate the organizational relationships between the Yearly Meeting and organizations for younger Friends, the Clerk sensed general approval for Proposal Three. Friends approved.

Plenary Session V

94-5-2 The Registrar's report informed us that 435 people signed up for the Annual Session. Eleven had not appeared. There were 304 adults, 60 Junior Friends, 55 grade schoolers, 13 pre-schoolers, and 3 infants. There were 95 people attending this Yearly Meeting for the first time.

94-5-5 Ann Stever, Clerk of the AFSC Executive Committee in the Pacific Northwest, introduced Judith Kolokoff, new Executive Director of this region, who, with the help of a panel of young people, described one program, Lambert House, a community support center for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and trans-gender young people ages 14 to 22. The three representatives spoke of their own experiences discovering their sexuality and eventually coming out. They now find in Lambert House both a "safe place just to be a teenager" and a program which gives support to others and meaning to their lives.

Plenary Session VI

94-6-4 Gus Fromuth presented the revised minute on the Peace Tax Fund Act. After assuring that approval of this minute would in no way diminish needed support for veterans, Friends approved the following minute:

The North Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends endorses the United States Peace Tax Fund Bill HR2019 and S2028. This bill promotes religious liberty and freedom of conscience. Conscientious objection to fighting a war has already been made legal by our government;

now it is time to legalize conscientious objection as to paying for war. The Peace Tax Fund Bill makes this provision.

94-6-5 Jay Penniman presented the revised minute on the Code of Conduct for Arms Transfers. After assuring that endorsement of this bill restricting arms transfers did not mean we supported less restricted arms transfers, Friends approved the following minute:

As a part of our historical Peace Testimony and our continuing work to turn our faith into positive action, North Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends endorses the "Code of Conduct for Arms Transfers Act of 1993 (S1677 and HR3538).

94-6-6 Bill Matchett read the revised minute on "A Loving Response to Hostility to Homosexual People." After a reminder that we now need ... to carry out this minute in concrete ways, Friends approved the following minute:

In the states which comprise our Yearly Meeting there are on-going campaigns to maintain or establish legal discrimination based on sexual orientation. These campaigns have been accompanied by escalating verbal and physical violence against people who are, or are perceived to be, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transvestites, and transsexuals (sexual minorities). We acknowledge a tendency in ourselves to "match this energy" by reacting negatively in thoughts, words, or actions toward individuals and organizations which show disregard and disrespect for sexual minorities.

We assert, however, that all violence separates us from ourselves, from God, and from each other. When we attack others, we perpetuate a cycle of action and reaction devoid of empathy or positive regard for them. Recognizing aggression as arising from ignorance, misguidance, or fear may enable us to meet it with nonviolence. As Friends, we seek a response that arises from the Light within and cares for the human dignity of all people affected by this conflict.

We urge all Friends and Meetings to consider these queries and suggested actions and report to Yearly Meeting:

- A) How do we as Friends respond when confronted with violence in someone? Are we able to pinpoint our own prejudices? Are we able to center ourselves in the Light and see the Light in the other person? Can we express our emotions with integrity when we confront hostility?
- B) What concrete actions do I take to show my support for sexual minorities and to advocate for their rights?
- C) What concrete actions do I take to counter the hostility expressed toward sexual minorities? ■



NPYM Grade School Program. Staff photo.

LETTER

That of God in Every Religion

I suggest Friends adopt a new phrase, thus a new emphasis: "Listening to that of God in every religion." George Fox's phrase, "speaking to that of God in everyone," has served us well through the centuries and will continue to do so for centuries to come. As I attended the second Centennial Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago, August 1993, this new phrase came to me.

"Listening" implies humbleness. This means I don't have all the truth. This means that other people and other religions understand portions of truth which I don't grasp. Thus, in my seeking, I am willing to listen.

"Religions" implies many spiritual traditions and disciplines. Although Friends didn't have exhibits in Chicago, the Humanists, Boys Scouts, Sikhs, Jains, Muslims, and many others did. I heard in most presentations echoes of Quaker thought.

"God" — well, the more I listened the more unsure I became. Perhaps, as do the Jews, we should write without the vowel: G_D. The Buddhists challenged us midway through the eight-day conference. This atheistic religion has deep spiritual discipline. Were they to be excluded because they didn't believe in God? The quickness of many present to say "God," and then this challenge, reminded me of an event some six months earlier in Seattle at University Meeting. I made a presentation on Theology and Ecology. ("Theology" implies "God." A member of the meeting said to me, "What is this 'God' talk? I don't understand what you mean.")

Part of our consensus process is listening, inside and outside ourselves. Thus we become skilled in hearing as well as speaking. With many conflicts in the world linked to religion, our efforts for peace can also be expressed in this listening process.

About fifteen Quakers attended the assemblage of 6,500 people from around the world. In our churches and meetings our numbers are also small and our human energy limited. We have a need to maintain our religious identity. However, the larger need for "Peace on Earth," calls us to "Listen to that of God in every religion."

Michael Moore, Friend

Attender, Agate Passage Worship Group

Member, University Friends Meeting

Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conference "What Canst Thou Say?"

The Conference will bring together women from Canadian, North Pacific, and Northwest yearly meetings, on June 8-11, 1995, at the Tilikum Retreat Center, Newberg, Oregon. The application deadline is October 1, 1994. For an application form, contact Anna Baker, 3881 Seneca Avenue SE, Salem, OR 97302 USA. (503) 364-0244. ■

MONTANA GATHERING OF FRIENDS

Friends in Need

by Jim Coates, Red Lodge Worship Group

It all started with a message on the machine. "We want to stay with you on our way across the country. We'll be there in about ten days. The number is - - -, but don't bother to call. We're leaving early tomorrow morning." Such was our introduction to the *Directory of Traveling Friends*.

Taking a chance, I returned the call next morning. Rushing back into her house from the car in which she and her nine-year-old son were about to drive across country, she said she'd call from somewhere along the way, had no itinerary, but would see us in about ten days.

The next notification, very early a.m. eight days later, was from her husband who had remained at home. "They are in North Dakota and will see you in a few days."

A few days passed and he called again, this time late at night. "Have you heard from them? Is it dark there, yet? They should be there." A later call relieved our worry. "She'll be there in a few days."

We went to bed at ten the evening she was "definitely" to arrive early that day, still without a word of her whereabouts. Again he called, worried.

We were leaving town the following day and had wanted to get to know our anticipated guests prior to leaving them alone in our home for a few days. By then we were apprehensive, at least, about their reliability.

The dog barking first alerted us that someone was entering our home. Fierce as she may sound, our old Lab wouldn't hurt anyone, let alone the woman and her son who entered our dark home without knocking, turned on lights, and started unpacking before we could even get downstairs to acknowledge their presence. We showed them to their room after a fleeting explanation that they were "traveling on excitement," then lay back down for a night of twisting and turning in our attempt to see That of God in others in all their manifestations.

The morning broke upon our weariness and concern, having resolved to limit her stay at our home to the time we would actually be there; we chose our own needs rather than hers, a decision which came only after much soul searching. She appeared to accept the situation, and, possibly, our suggestions to communicate more directly and timely with her hosts during the rest of her journey. We enjoyed a brief visit, helped her pack the car, and chuckled when the nine-year-old son rolled his eyes at her frantic question, "Where are the keys?" ■

To purchase FGC's 1994 Directory for Traveling Friends, send \$14.00 plus \$3.00 handling to Friends General Conference, TD, 1216 Arch St, 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107, or phone (215) 561-1700 or (800) 966-4556. Use of this directory is restricted to those with a letter of introduction from their home meeting.

Pacific Yearly Meeting

August 2-7, 1994

Craig Hall, Chico, California

Epistle

To Friends Everywhere,

Loving greetings from the 48th annual gathering of Pacific Yearly Meeting, held this year in Chico, California.

We came to this gathering burdened with the turmoil of the world and feeling a need to nurture each other and renew our faith. As we followed the thread of our theme, "Creating the World We Yearn For," we discovered that we are indeed yearning for a different world. Globally, we are facing the rapid deterioration of the environment and the disintegration of our social fabric. We are reminded that we often do not have answers to the complex and overwhelming problems of the world. We are called to seek new answers lovingly, with honesty and humility.

We welcomed five Friends from other nations, visiting with us before the FWCC Triennial in New Mexico. A Cuban Friend suggested to us that "the world is where we are," that we must face the problems before us. Yet, in worship, our thoughts often turned to violence in Bosnia and Rwanda. The killings in Rwanda, especially, challenge our faith. We struggle to comprehend the killings, to recognize in ourselves comparable seeds of hatred.

We celebrate the creation of Friends House Moscow. We've long held a concern for this region and, with the love and support of many Friends throughout Europe and North America, we are excited to see this concern blossom into Friends House Moscow. We send it our prayers and lovingly hold in the Light the Russian worship groups.

We continue to search for ways to enrich our lives as Friends. Twice we gathered in experimental worship to receive gifts of music, poetry, stories, and dance. We are exploring ways to better hear the concerns of young adult Friends among us and fully integrate them into Yearly Meeting. In productive working sessions we considered the myths and realities of immigration issues in California, our own personal struggles with the peace testimony, concerns about population growth and U.S. overconsumption, and other issues.

We are grateful to the committee rewriting our Faith and Practice for working so hard to include all of us in their process. They have given us the opportunity to revisit our Testimonies, and we are again reminded that above all we are seeking Divine Truth. We struggle to listen for that Truth, striving to remain open to new revelations of the Light. We ask for your prayers that we may remember this is our task.

Yours in the Light,

Ellie Huffman, Presiding Clerk



*Junior Yearly Meeting Friends
Cleaning their meeting room.
Staff photo.*

Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle (Excerpts)

This year Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) got off to a great start. This year's congregation consisted of over sixty teens ranging from ages twelve to eighteen.

We were granted the honor of using a newly refurbished room. Unfortunately we did not realize this. We proceeded to destroy the room with reckless abandon. The food provided by Craig Hall gave us the perfect ammunition. Needless to say, several popcorn and pillow fights ensued. We used the numerous couches as makeshift forts and rearranged them to suit our needs.

When we awoke on Wednesday we were surprised to find out we had been successfully evicted from our lush estate. With nowhere left to hold our meetings, we wandered around like the Homeless.... A committee was formed to talk to the Craig Hall staff, to apologize, and to volunteer our support. After some major persuasions by some PYM elders and some reconsideration by Craig Hall staff, we were granted our room back, under certain circumstances, of course....

Friday night we were blessed by a magical intergenerational dance. ... Together we felt it was one of the best dances in JYM history.

... Our campsite was located near Mount Lassen. The nearby creek was cold; nevertheless a few of us went swimming. We played hide and go seek, sang campfire songs, and roasted marshmallows. We even managed ten minutes of worship.

This year's location played a very big part in luring many JYMers. After last year's site, we were all yearning for civilization. Craig Hall provided excellent facilities for our usage. ... It provided a great space for all the JYMers to socialize. The grounds included a much-needed swimming pool. Craig Hall also provided a field for camping and our notorious Capture the Flag games. ... We were truly fulfilled.

Junior Yearly Meeting of Pacific Yearly Meeting

PYM Young Friends Epistle

To Friends Everywhere:

From August third through seventh, the Young Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting met at Chico's Craig Hall. As in past years, we were troubled by the loss of members both within Young Friends and in the transitions in and out of the group. Many Friends felt the need for a stronger foundation in Quaker beliefs and reexamination of the place of Quaker testimonies in a changing world. To address these concerns we invited members of greater Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) to a dialogue in which we discussed the relationship of Young Friends to greater PYM and the need for a greater emphasis on Quaker tradition. We were encouraged by the participation of older Friends in various intergenerational discussions and felt a need for their guidance in Quaker practice and spirituality. To help new members feel comfortable within Young Friends, we proposed some type of welcoming process to introduce them to our close-knit group.

We also felt frustrated that the short duration of PYM forced us to choose between full fellowship with other Young Friends and interaction with greater PYM. As in past years, we expressed the desire for a restructuring of PYM towards a greater emphasis on fellowship and spirituality. With our realization of our need to change direction has come a new sense of empowerment and purpose. We are attempting to organize quarterly Young Friends gatherings to strengthen our growing sense of community.

Together we took a trip to an idyllic swimming hole where we climbed slippery rocks to launch ourselves into the deep pools. We found here a metaphor for the challenges we faced this year. From those turbulent waters of confusion and doubt, we climb up to the rock platform, discovering our desires and needs for the future. As we leap from the rock, we hope not to fall back into confusion and disorder, but to fly, and discover our new home within our meeting and within ourselves.

Young Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting



Young Friends and Friend. Staff photo.

Selected Minutes

Representative Committee

94-26. Wider Fellowship Among Friends.

...Friends Church, Southwest Yearly Meeting, has withdrawn from Friends United Meeting. The individual churches of Friends Church, Southwest Yearly Meeting, are largely in the same geographical area as is served by Pacific Yearly Meeting. We approve the appointment of a PYM liaison, an observer, to Friends Church, Southwest Yearly Meeting.

94-27. Quaker Spiritual Quest.

Ingrid Petersen (Claremont) reports that the group of Friends, originally a subcommittee under our Religious Education Committee and known as the Quaker Spiritual Quest, is separating from PYM to serve independently. In our discussion we have shown our continuing concern to respond to adult education.

Plenary Session II

Social Order Committee presented a special session, "Creating the World We Yearn For." Margaret Mossman of Ministry and Oversight Committee explained the format for the session to follow, during which time three members of the Social Order Committee would each speak to the theme, followed by silence.

Margaret then commenced the session, [asking]:

What is our role as Quakers, among all Quakers in the world, in finding appropriate responses to the conditions of violence and despair in the world?

How can we as Quakers relate to one another and become role models to reduce tensions among ourselves and others as a means toward creating the world we yearn for?

In what ways should our Yearly Meeting provide the nurturance and caring to strengthen our spirits, that we might go forth to manifest our faith and the spirit of God through our actions?

Elizabeth Jones then spoke on the sense of chaos and uncertainty prevailing today, and the threats against Nature and the social fabric by the impact of modern technology and challenges to the survival of life on earth — important issues which are faced by all inhabitants of the earth today. How can we Quakers seek Divine guidance?

Marybeth Webster entered the room, wearing a clown costume, came to the front and performed a mime of a traditional soap-box harangue, offering ready-made answers; then she ended by peeling off the outer clown costume and putting on a sandwich-board sign which read, "There are no answers, seek them lovingly," and left the room.

Bob Segalman reminded us of the threats to the world and the challenges facing Quakers. He asked us to reflect on how we, as Quakers, can solve such problems through worship, seeking the Light as a way of keeping our sanity and emotional maturity. He recalled that there are also

other ways for seeking answers, as described by psychologists, such as Maslow and Freud.

Plenary Session III

Religious Education Committee.

The Committee recognizes that it would like to have the Religious Education Committee be a committee for adults as well as children. It sees the Committee as being one committee with possibly eight members: four primarily responsible to the children's education and four responsible to adult education. In each of the two sets of four, it would like to see two members from the Southern Quarter and two from the College Park Quarter.

Brinton Visitor.

... Bob Vogel has agreed to visit in this yearly meeting after his time as Friend in Residence at Woodbrooke (England).

Statistical Report.

Bruce Folsom, Statistical Clerk, reported that our membership is 1,543, fourteen less than last year. Most of the loss in membership occurred in Southern California and most in small meetings (under twenty-five members). Although we have one new preparative meeting (Mendocino) and several new worship groups, we lost Westwood Meeting, which has been laid down.

Friends Bulletin.

Rob Roy Woodman reported. All three yearly meetings have approved incorporation of the *Friends Bulletin* as a separate corporation and this will be done in the state of Oregon.

Right Holding of Yearly Meeting Committee.

94-01 We approved laying down the ad hoc Committee on the Right Holding of Yearly Meeting with appreciation.

The Committee has recommended [that] Ministry and Oversight ... establish a subcommittee with this role [the right holding of yearly meeting]. ... Sites Committee has created a subcommittee to study Friends' desires regarding a permanent site.

Plenary Session VI

Andrea English, Assistant Clerk, read announcements, including the fact that there is a new permanent PYM address: Pacific Yearly Meeting, c/o Berkeley Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine Street, Berkeley, CA 94709.

Quaker Spiritual Quest.

Clerk, Ellie Huffman, read the Representative Committee minute from the former Quaker Spiritual Quest subcommittee (of the Religious Education Committee) and introduced Ingrid Peterson, a Quaker Spiritual Quest member. Ingrid explained the reasons for the laying down of the subcommittee and that the Quaker Spiritual Quest would continue their work as an independent group in Southern California. She asked for suggestions and blessings for their continuing work.

Treasurers' Report.

Phyllis and Walt Jones, Treasurers, noted a need to build

Our Treasurer isn't a dud,
She makes clear what could be
like mud,
I didn't think it funny,
When she asked for more
money,
Until her T-shirt said simply,
"Give Blood."

Terry Hart, Santa Cruz, shared the above limerick at Family Night.

our reserves in order to be in line with good budgetary practices for organizations like ours. [They indicated the need for a reserve fund equal to one year's expenses.]

Finance Committee Report.

Vanita Blum, Finance Committee Clerk, reviewed the Finance Committee's reasons for budgetary planning, allocations, cuts, increases. The Finance Committee has followed a very conservative approach and many budget categories

are less than last year. A few years ago the reserves had grown too large, and the budgets had been designed to draw that excess down, but now the reserves are low. The need to balance the budget and rebuild the reserves account requires an increase in annual member fees from monthly meetings, up from \$26 to \$31 per member.

Plenary Session VII

Finance.

94-05. The 1995 Budget was approved as presented.

This approval included an increase in the assessment to \$31 per member [including Hawaii], with Mexico City continuing at \$15 per member.

Pacific Yearly Meeting Site, 1995. ... Site Committee notes that we have only two options: Chico and Walker Creek Ranch. The decision regarding which site is best able to meet our needs will be made by [PYM Clerks].

Whither Representative Committee.

... We have the freedom to structure the Yearly Meeting — both the body of the Yearly Meeting and the sessions themselves — to meet our needs. There is a need for further discussions at yearly, quarterly and monthly meetings.

Plenary Session VIII

Gary Wolff, PYM Co-Registrar, noted that attendance of 483 this year was down from last year's 497 at Walker Creek Ranch, but that is the highest for this Chico location in recent years. ■



PYM Friends Hiroshima Walk. Photo by Mark Farmer.

Our Quaker Dilemma: Reconciling Ends and Means, Justice and Peace

by Alfred Andersen, Pima Meeting

This year's Pacific Yearly Meeting at Chico was the most challenging Yearly Meeting I can remember attending.

Out of one of its Working Groups emerged a faxed message to President Clinton urging him to continue to explore nonmilitary ways to pressure the Haitian military, ways which wouldn't result in negative impact on the Haitian people — four pages of signatures, with copies to the U.S. Mission to the UN and to the Quaker UN Office.

But more important was our not being able to find that kind of unity on a more fundamental issue facing all Friends. We learned from FCNL's Nancy Nye that their correspondence indicated sharp divisions among us regarding FCNL's criticism of the U.S. decision to employ the military in bringing food and medical supplies, *and the protection needed to deliver it*, to the victims of war in Somalia. At PYM 1994, Friends were also divided.

One Friend expressed support for local police forces. We also heard a similar statement from a Los Angeles Friend. She had noted an encouraging transformation in the behavior of the LA police. Weeks earlier a member of Eugene Meeting could imagine herself approving shooting someone who was gunning down people en masse — assuming no time for a nonviolent response.

What, then, of military forces policing the world scene? Personally, I am skeptical that any existing national or UN military (as presently constituted) is capable of exercising the necessary, sensitive discretion — founded as they are on serving the economic and political interests of the most aggressive and acquisitive elite in today's world. Thus my refusal to file with the IRS for the last 45 years.

And that suggests the basic problem, implicit also in the rich getting even richer as the poor get ever poorer: namely, that the economic and political structures dominating (oppressing, polluting, destroying) all forms of life on this planet are grossly unjust and corrupt. On the other hand, personally, I am reluctant to criticize any move in the right direction on the part of any political body (or the LA police force); and the *initial* role of the U.S. military in Somalia may have been "in the right direction." I'm remembering the delight on the faces of U.S. soldiers in being able to distribute food to hungry people rather than bullets into the bodies of fellow conscripts.

But, except for William Penn's "experiment" in founding Pennsylvania about three centuries ago, Friends have generally shied away from basic structural change. And may it be largely because that very experiment failed in so many ways? May it also be because envisioning a truly just political-economic order calls on us to squarely face up to the following moral dilemma: *In the face of gross injustice (or the threat of it) what kind and amount of coercion (a*

concept Friends shy away from!) is not only morally justified but at times morally required?

It now seems clear that in taking the absolutist position against all "outward weapons" we skirt this moral challenge. And mustn't we admit that in supporting local police and especially in paying federal taxes used to finance the most indiscriminate and clearly immoral "outward weapons" not only has that challenge been skirted but our Peace Testimony remains intact in words only?

Can it be that we must decide whether peace or justice is our *most basic* commitment? We'd like to have both, but this isn't always possible. As Roberta Spivak so courageously points out in the April 1994 *Friends Journal*, there are times when failure to act spells complicity. And Kenneth Kaunda's *The Riddle of Violence* is apt here.

I had lots of time to face this dilemma while in prison during WWII for refusing to accept conscription. For most of the half century since then, my basic commitment has been to justice. I see "peace" and the Friends Testimonies as crucial considerations in each concrete situation. But the only absolute is the final weighted verdict handed down by individual or group Inward Light as to what is *overall* just in each concrete situation.

It is interesting to note that there is no Friends Testimony on justice. Might this be because there has been a tacit acceptance of justice as the final moral yardstick against which all stated Testimonies are to be weighted and applied? In any case, I suggest that the time is ripe for accepting overall, continuing-revelation justice as the minimum moral yardstick in our social outreach. I say "minimum" because even while remaining within the moral bounds of justice, life would be quite barren and shallow without friendship, compassion, a modicum of peace, and even some dancing, singing, and general rejoicing in all that the Inward Light offers in guidance for our lives. Yet, when we stray beyond the moral bounds of justice, all those enriching parts of life become somewhat soured; and in extreme straying they lose not only all their moral merit but all their pleasure and joy!

Thus it seems to me. But, "What canst thou say?" ■



Nancy Nye, FCNL, leading an Interest Group at PYM.
Photo by Mark Farmer, Marin Meeting.

FRIENDLY NEWS

Colorado Regional Meeting

by Randy Herrick-Stare, Mountain View Meeting

Colorado Friends have been active..... make that ACTIVE.

Mountain View Meeting. It came to the attention of the **Mountain View** nominating committee that two individuals who had worked with the children's program, or expressed an interest in doing so, had histories of having been accused or disciplined in their professional lives for inappropriate behavior with children or young adults. The effort to balance the interests of all while informing the nominating process resulted in a rash of gossip, accusations of invasions of privacy, breaches of confidence, persecutions, a failure to protect children and their parents, and ... a failure to act in the manner of Friends. So far these have resulted in a polarization of the meeting, many hurt feelings, and the resignations of the Clerk, the Convener of Oversight Committee and other committee members. Your correspondent has a sense of having lost his bearings. How could a loving community have inflicted so much pain on itself? Though Friends are beginning to reach out to one another, too little time has yet passed to make sense of the events. For now we are left with queries, many queries, for which this column provides too little space.

Boulder Meeting continues to grow at a rate of about one member per month. As a result, an 8:30 First Day meeting for worship has been started. Between 65 and 100 gather for the 10:00 meeting for worship. The numbers and active ministry leave some yearning for more silence, and all for more space. As seems typical of Friends, Boulder Meeting has labored long and hard to find the Lord's leading regarding the provision of adequate and suitable space. Providing for growth has raised issues of moving, remodeling, or rebuilding on the same site.

The meeting has active men's and women's groups. A Quaker study program will be started in the fall.

Fort Collins Meeting. O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay! **Fort Collins Meeting** has purchased a meeting house. It is buying an old farm house on the north side of town.

The Meeting is continuing to grow. About 30 attend First Day worship.

Over the summer, the Meeting celebrated two weddings, including that of the first same gender couple to seek marriage under the care of the Meeting.

Colorado Springs Meeting has experienced an increase in attendance over the last year. Typically between 10 and 12 now gather on First Day. It has added a new member in the last year. It is celebrating a stable core group of active members. Most important to the meeting community has been the deepening of care and sharing through clearness committees which have addressed a number of membership and personal issues. ■

New Mexico Regional Meeting

by Elizabeth Buckley, Albuquerque Meeting

This summer finds Friends of **New Mexico Regional Meeting (NMRM)** making choices about which Quaker gatherings to help organize and to attend.

In June, Friendly Folk dancers toured in New Mexico and Arizona with their last stop at **IMYM** in Durango, Colorado. Peli Lee, Wyn Lewis, Cathy Turner, and Jean Mayes of Santa Fe joined dancers from Iowa, Wisconsin, and Arizona to bring to Meetings and Worship Groups an international evening enjoyed by all ages. After the sharing of a potluck meal, the folk dancers demonstrated dances from Taiwan, South Africa, Israel, Poland, Italy, Hungary, and the United States. Next, Friends played the "Quaker Quest" game and discovered how much fun it was to decide by consensus the answers to Quaker-related questions. Then everybody got to dance, even those who thought they did not know how.

About eighty **NMRM** Friends and their families participated in **IMYM** this year. Many returned with glowing reports. Also in June, **Las Cruces Meeting** officially adopted under its care the newly-formed **Hillsboro Worship Group**.

In July about fifteen Friends from **NMRM** traveled to Amherst, Massachusetts, to participate in the Friends General Conference Gathering. Wendy Simms, **Albuquerque**, and Mike Gray, **Fort Collins**, coordinated the high school program. There were 102 participants ages fourteen to eighteen and ten counselors. They had seven workshops, twenty-four hours each day, for seven days.

Throughout the summer, the Local Arrangements Committee for the FWCC Triennial intensified its work. Friends met to fold brochures and assemble registration packets during the hottest part of this summer's heat wave. Ted Church and Deb Hall of **Albuquerque** continued devoted and persistent coordination of many details. Many hands contributed — making phone calls, generating arrival and departure schedules of over 300 Friends, attending more planning meetings, and making more reports. On July 20, Denise Bleakly, of **Albuquerque**, took time out to give birth to Evan Walter Bleakly. Congratulations David and Denise!

On August 15-24, the FWCC 18th Triennial took place at Ghost Ranch. Clerks, Bill and Genie Durland, **IMYM**; Elizabeth Buckley, **NMRM**; Kip and Helen Corneli, **Santa Fe**; and Margaux Baker, **Albuquerque**, officially welcomed this international gathering of Friends from all branches of Quaker tradition. Deborah Richards, **Albuquerque**, was the official photographer and provided photos to all the Quaker publications.

Indeed, the summer of 1994 will be remembered by Friends in **New Mexico Regional Meeting**. ■

The Problem with Affluence¹ by Bob Barns, Grass Valley Meeting

We often look to John Woolman as we search for spiritual guidance. He is frequently remembered for his work against the slave trade. As he labored with slave owners he made two points: 1) What does it do to a human being to be enslaved, and 2) What does it do to a person's spiritual journey to be the "owner" of another Child of God?

Is there a parallel between the slave owning patterns of two centuries ago and the patterns of First World/Two-third World relationship today? If it was spiritually and morally wrong to take the labor and energy resources of others and use it for the benefit of a few then, is it not similarly wrong today for few of us (in the First World) to take many times our fair share of the world's resources so that we can be better fed, more comfortable, more powerful? The end result of this relationship is that two-thirds of the world lives in poverty with chronic illnesses, mal nourishment, and minimal personal and political power.

It is conceivable that living in a manner that creates this blatant imbalance is a serious impediment to a closer relationship with God. Is it possible we are like fish, who cannot tell about water because they know of nothing else? Are we so immersed in our life-style we cannot see what it may do to our spiritual journey?

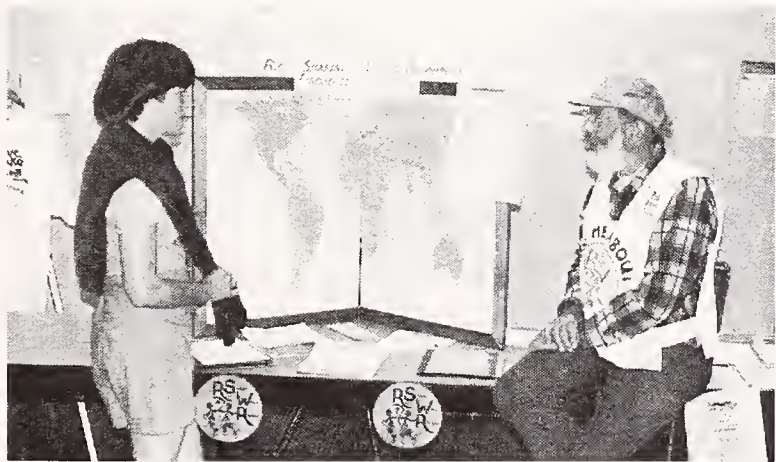
Jesus spoke of the rich and the poor in many ways: the tax collector, the rich young man wanting to enter the Kingdom of God, the camel/eye of the needle, the widow's mite, ministering to Him by aiding the poor, the sick, the imprisoned.

It has been said, "The major problem facing the church today is not poverty but affluence." What do you say? ■

This summer Bob Barns traveled to five yearly meetings (including North Pacific, and Pacific Yearly Meetings) and the Friends General Conference with a concern to make Right Sharing² a stronger presence among Friends.

¹ Reprinted from *Right Sharing News*, Vol. XXI, Number 2, Second Quarter, 1994.

² The Right Sharing of World Resources is a program of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas.



Bob Barns at NPYM.

Photo by Norman Pasche, Marysville Worship Group.

MEMORIAL MINUTES

Howard Christensen

Howard Middleton Christensen, 79, died June 12, 1993, at his home in Salt Lake City, Utah, after a long illness.

Howard was born on January 10, 1914, in Lachine, Quebec, Canada, to Lars C. and Dorothy M. Christensen. On February 23, 1935, he married Mary F. Heilman, from whom he was later divorced. He graduated from Appalachian State College in 1939. Howard moved to Salt Lake City in 1958 and was employed as a machinist at Sperry-Univac until his retirement in 1979. On February 22, 1962, he married Ruth F. Done, who preceded him in death.

Howard particularly enjoyed bridge and gardening and shared his bounty with the Meeting and with his neighbors. Howard and his family became members of the Wrightstown Monthly Meeting in 1945. He had been an attender at Buckingham Monthly Meeting (Pennsylvania) and Boulder Monthly Meeting (Colorado), although it is not clear if he ever transferred his membership to either of those meetings. In the last years of his life he was a regular attender of Salt Lake Monthly Meeting where he served faithfully on the Building and Grounds Committee.

He will be remembered for his friendliness and gentle good humor. Howard is survived by sons, Howard M., Jr., Boulder, Colorado, and Sigurd W., Oak Ridge Tennessee; his stepson Douglas N. Done, West Valley, Utah; his daughter, Delilah A., Boulder, Colorado; his brother, William M., Baldwinville, New York; and his sister, Dorothy Mosley, St. Petersburg, Florida. ■

Nora Lyon

Nora Lyon was born Nora Lea Paselk on September 26, 1935, in Detroit, Michigan, where she grew up along with her three brothers. She graduated with honors from the University of Michigan. She married John Cross shortly after graduation and moved with him to England, where she lived until the late 1970's. During this time her five children were born and she joined Ratcliff and Barking Meeting. In the late 1970's she came to Orange County to care for her father during his terminal illness and worked for a time in various secretarial positions at the University of California Medical Center.

She married Joel Ivy under the care of Orange County Meeting on July 28, 1981, and transferred her membership from England, becoming a member of Orange County Meeting on June 27, 1982. In the mid-1980's she moved to Northern California with her last husband, Glen Lyon. She lived in Point Arena, California, until her death in September of 1993. During Nora's time in Orange County she was, with her husband, Joel Ivy, very active on behalf of Orange County's homeless and gay communities.

Nora is survived by her husband, Glen Lyon, and by four of her children — John, Elizabeth, and Philip Cross and Keith Burfoot — and by two grandchildren. ■

MEMORIAL MINUTES

Isobel Milton Cerney

Isobel Milton was born in Chicago on May 6, 1912, and died at Friends House, Santa Rosa, on November 19, 1993. At Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, she obtained her bachelors and masters degrees in 1933 and 1934. Her major was history but she graduated with honors in philosophy. She also studied semantics at Harvard.

In 1935 she married Edwin Cerney, an artist. Edwin taught art, and Isobel taught eloquence. She and Edwin were married for 52 years until his death in 1987.

Moving to San Francisco in 1944, Isobel taught English and Social Sciences at Sequoia High School in Redwood City during the day, and at night she taught at the California Labor School, where she became head of the English department and also sat on the Board of Directors. She joined the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in 1947 and was appointed a life member in 1988. In 1951, she and Edwin visited the Peoples Republic of China where she served as secretary of the U.S. delegation to the Asian and Pacific Region Peace Congress.

The Cerneys moved on to teach at Stockton College until 1950, when they both refused to sign the loyalty oath. Edwin taught without pay for a year in response to student demand, and Isobel worked as a bill collector for the Hod Carriers Union. In 1954 she ran for U.S. Senate on the Progressive Party ticket. While she lost, her speeches garnered support for peace, jobs, and social justice. In 1955 she had major spinal surgery which left her permanently disabled.

Edwin taught at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, from 1957 to 1969 and Isobel taught English part-time at Morris Brown College. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., appointed her to a Southern Christian Leadership Conference Committee. She later served on Coretta King's staff.

Isobel joined the Religious Society of Friends in 1960 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Atlanta Meeting sent her to a demonstration at the Pentagon on the 300th anniversary of George Fox's *Peace Testimony*.

Isobel and Edwin spent summers in Palo Alto where he built a house of scrap materials and where they retired in 1969. In 1982 they were sent by the Palo Alto Meeting to the Second Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations. In 1984 they were among the earliest residents at Friends House in Santa Rosa where Isobel continued her peace and social concerns in committees of Friends House and Redwood Forest Meeting until her death. ■

Margaret Simkin

Margaret Timberlake Simkin was born September 6, 1892, and grew up in Lancaster, New Hampshire. As a teenager she wanted to be a missionary.

In 1922, at Earlham College, Margaret became a student volunteer and the American Friends Board (Richmond, Indiana) planned to send her to Ramallah, Pales-

tine. But she heard Robert Simkin speak about Szechwan, China. Margaret received a master's degree from Columbia University Teachers College and attended lectures at Union Theological Seminary. She and Robert Simkin were married and sailed for China, traveling by land and river boat to the West China Union University in Chengtu. Her book, *Letters from Szechwan*, published when she was 85, depicts her life there.

She returned to the United States in 1944 and continued active participation among Friends: AFSC, FCL, PYM Friends in the Orient Committee, served as Clerk of Los Angeles Meeting, etc. In Los Angeles, Margaret and Robert developed John Woolman House where young women lived cooperatively and found direction in their lives.

Margaret moved to Claremont and transferred her membership in November, 1971. She was active on the Visiting Committee and initiated the filing of "Declarations for Life," a gesture against the death penalty. For the last ten years of her life, six or seven women Friends gathered in her room weekly for worship and reading.

On her 100th birthday, Claremont Meeting prepared a certificate which read: "... Claremont Monthly Meeting witnesses its appreciation of Margaret Simkin. In loyalty to Quaker way of life she has participated fully as missionary in China and carried the work of offices in Friends Meetings and organizations. In all, her practice of quiet simplicity has brought us the treasure of a Quaker presence. We are truly blessed."

Margaret Simkin died October 10, 1993. ■

Robert Tandy

Robert Tandy, the son of Howard and Corinne Dickerson Tandy, was born in Detroit, Michigan, on July 12, 1923. Bob received his Bachelors degree from the University of Redlands. He did graduate work at USC, UCLA, Cal-State Hayward, Beverly College of Law, and Armstrong School of Law in Berkeley. He also studied the ministry at the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School and the University of Chicago Theological Seminary. In 1944 he traveled and lectured for the Fellowship of Reconciliation. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. Bob was a social worker for San Bernardino County, lectured at the Los Angeles Psychology Institute, and became a probation officer for the county of Los Angeles, working with youth gangs and adults. He retired in 1976 and married Carla under the care of the Palo Alto Meeting on April 6, 1979. Robert Tandy died on October 29, 1993.

He is survived by his wife, Carla; one son, Marcus Tandy, Newark, New Jersey; two stepsons, Kim Taylor, Santa Clara, California, and Craig Taylor, Gold Hill, Oregon; one stepdaughter, Kelye Allen, San Ramon, California; two sisters; a brother; five grandchildren; four nieces; and two nephews. ■

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Quaker Historians and Archivists by Elsa Glines, Strawberry Creek

Three PYM Friends — Nancy Andreason (Santa Cruz), Tom King (San Jose), and Elsa Glines (Strawberry Creek) — attended the Tenth Biennial Meeting of Quaker Historians and Archivists, June 24-26, at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

For those interested in Quaker history, the Conference provided stimulating presentations and discussions on topics ranging from "The Reshaping of Quakerism after the Nayler Affair" to "Quakers Taking a Stand in the Twentieth Century."

Speakers included Rosemary Moore from England; Larry Ingle, author of the new biography, *George Fox, First Among Friends*; and James Fisher, a graduate student at Kent University.

The next conference will be held at Oakwood School in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1996. For information write to the Friends Historical Association, Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA 19041. ■

CORRESPONDENT WANTED

Friends Bulletin needs a correspondent from College Park Quarter. For information, write or call, Nancy Yarnall, Editor, *Friends Bulletin*, 1620 NW Menlo Dr, Corvallis, OR 97330 (503) 757-0981.

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VITAL STATISTICS

Births

- Katherine Louisa Strode Douglas, born to Lee Douglas and Betsy Strode (and brother Sam), June 2, 1994, Palo Alto Meeting.
- Tara Margaret Urner, born to Kirby Urner and Dawn Wicca, June 7, 1994, Multnomah Meeting.
- Maya Patricia Lilly Kratzer, born to Jim and Debbie Kratzer, June 29, 1994, Fresno Meeting.

Marriages

- Tom Huff (Strawberry Creek Meeting) and Barbara Downs (Honolulu Meeting), June 18, 1994.
- Annette Paup and James N. Larrabee, under the care of Rogue Valley Meeting, June 25, 1994.
- Julie Ann Bjorklun and Sandra Carol Broeren, under the care of Fort Collins Meeting, June 4, 1994.
- Andrea English and Tom Whiteman, under the care of Strawberry Creek Meeting, June 25, 1994.

Deaths

- R. Edwin Worley, December 27, 1993, Reno Meeting.
- Donald Milton Roberts, April 11, 1994, Orange County Meeting.
- Alvin Willard Bowers, June 22, 1994, Multnomah Meeting.
- Calvin Cope June 23, 1994, Berkeley Meeting.
- William Allison Myers, June 27, 1994, Honolulu Meeting.
- Akie Nagami Reynolds, July 2, 1994, Santa Cruz Meeting.
- Ralph Raymond, July 1, 1994, Tempe Meeting.
- Leonard Field, July 9, 1994, Eugene Meeting.
- Maury Gutkin, July 10, 1994, Marloma Meeting.

New Members

- Jeff Hunter, Multnomah.
- Julia Bazar, Berkeley.
- Daniel Booth, Boulder.
- Sandy Broeren, Fort Collins.
- Mary Carpenter, Tempe.
- Marshall Carpenter, Tempe.
- Elizabeth Esterly, San Jose.
- Susan Nelson, San Diego. ■

Intermountain Yearly Meeting — American Friends Service Committee, Joint Service Project, 1994

by Mike Gray, Fort Collins Meeting

"I spent the day pondering the choices in life-style that the residents of Walpi had made. In terms of my culture, it would be considered impoverished. But it appeared that because of these 'hardships' that they share, they are actually wealthier in spirituality and a sense of community than we tend to experience in our culture. Juxtaposed was my knee-jerk reaction trying to figure out the *easiest* way to get a load of dirt from Marlene's pickup down to her garden plot on the side of the mesa. In the end, however, we did it the Hopi way and hauled buckets and wheelbarrowfuls down the steps and over the narrow path. I believe our camaraderie and accomplishment was enhanced by the difficulty of the task. One lesson, seen through two different experiences."

Journal entry by Gwen Fieldhouse

While reading our group's collective journal from the most recent trip taken by the Intermountain Yearly Meeting-American Friends Service Committee Joint Service Project, I was struck by how much this participant's thoughts echoed my own. Mine, written in a letter after the project was completed, marveled at the participants in the projects with which I have worked.

They were all people who were willing to do things the hard way. They were out to help others, not by writing a check or a letter, but by going out of their way to be physically present for those others. They were willing to work and to learn by putting themselves at discomfort and risk. The greater the willingness, the greater the discomfort; the greater the risk, the greater was their reward.

Our June 1994 trip took seven full-time and three part-time participants for nine days to the Navajo and Hopi nations. It was hot, dry, and dusty. The work was tedious and sometimes hard. The food was often school cafeteria cuisine. Telephones were far apart, often with lines of people waiting to use them. The long distance lines were usually busy. Our van broke down. Tempers were tested.

We met people who did not have cars or phones. We met people who had no electricity or running water. We met people who ate corn every day of their lives. We met people who lived this way by choice and by chance. We met people who rejoiced in a life-style that called them into hardship to keep them closer to the land and to their gods. It humbled me to know I was only to be there a short time, then to return to comparative luxury.

I know that we did little to make their lives easier. Yet, we did make them brighter, at least for a while. The fresh, white paint in the bathrooms of Dorm Number Four at Shiprock Dormitories will welcome new students in the Fall. There is now a wheelchair access ramp at the back door of the Battered Women's Center in Shiprock (bringing them up to federal code) and a good coat of deck-sealer on the front ramp and porch.

Marlene Sekaquaptewa has a new garden plot in the Bacabi community gardens, enriched with two truckloads of fertile soil scraped from a corral. At the Hotevilla-Bacabi Community School, just in time for the summer softball season, there is a fresh coat of blue and white paint on the dugouts. The children in the summer enrichment program have a new song to sing.

The Joint Service Project participants all took something away, too. For each, it may have been something a little different, but I know that we all now have a better understanding of life from a different perspective. We were able to step out of our own lives for a time and look at them from a distance. By learning more about someone else's life, we learned more about our own. ■

Mike Gray is currently the staff person for IMYM-AFSC Joint Service Project.

SEPTEMBER 1994

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*Mike Gray, painting the ceiling.
Photo Courtesy of Mike Gray.*